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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/919,241	07/31/2001	David G. Miller	10003791-1	2808

7590 01/15/2003

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[REDACTED] EXAMINER

CHAPMAN JR, JOHN E

[REDACTED] ART UNIT [REDACTED] PAPER NUMBER

2856

DATE MAILED: 01/15/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/919,241	MILLER, DAVID G.
Examiner	Art Unit	
John E Chapman	2856	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 December 2002.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) 12-26 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-4 and 6-11 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) 5 is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 12-26 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made without traverse in Paper No. 5.
2. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: The patent application on page 7, line 22, should be identified.

Appropriate correction is required.

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

It is not clear that claim 10 defines a structural limitation on the transducer of claim 1. Claim 10 appears to be directed to a step of a method (altering the acoustic impedance of a wafer), and it is not clear that an increase in the effective bandwidth as a result of having performed the step would be apparent from the structure of the transducer.

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1-4, 6-8 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Smith et al.

Smith et al. discloses an ultrasonic transducer comprising a plurality of piezoelectric elements 560A, 560B mounted on a ceramic base 520 comprising a plurality of posts. Smith et al. also teaches fabricating transmit/receive integrated circuits on a silicon wafer (see col. 19, lines 55-57). Accordingly, it would have been obvious to mount the plurality of piezoelectric elements 560A, 560B on a silicon wafer 520 in order to fabricate transmit/receive integrated circuits.

Regarding claim 8, germanium is a well known equivalent to silicon, and would have been an obvious choice of material to use in lieu of silicon for the wafer.

Regarding claim 11, polyimide connector 510 is bonded to the base 520.

7. Claims 1-4, 6-9 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hanafy in view of Smith et al.

Hanafy discloses an ultrasonic transducer comprising a plurality of piezoelectric elements X1-X5 mounted on a base 5 comprising a plurality of posts. The only difference between the claimed invention and the prior art consists in using a silicon wafer for the base 5. Smith et al.

teaches fabricating transmit/receive integrated circuits on a silicon wafer (see col. 19, lines 55-57).

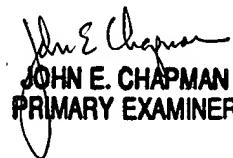
Accordingly, it would have been obvious to mount the plurality of piezoelectric elements X1-X5 of Hanafy on a silicon wafer 5 in order to fabricate transmit/receive integrated circuits.

8. Claim 5 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Dias et al. discloses an impedance matching layer comprising a plurality of posts 22 on a piezoelectric substrate 10. Breimesser et al. discloses a matching layer 18 comprising a plurality of plateau sections 22 mounted on piezoelectric vibrator bodies 16. Carson et al. discloses an ultrasonic array comprising a plurality of ultrasonic transducer elements 12 formed on hollows 41 in silicon substrate 18. Kunkel discloses an acoustic backing for an ultrasonic transducer comprising a plurality of conductive posts 12.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mr. Chapman whose telephone number is (703) 305-4920.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.


JOHN E. CHAPMAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER